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NEW YEAR ADDRESS

KIM IL SUNG

Comrades,

We have seen out a year of victory amid a fruitful struggle for revolution and construction and are greeting a new hopeful year, 1977, which will be adorned with new struggle and glory.

Ushering in the New Year, I offer my warm congratulations and greetings to our heroic workers, cooperative farmers, gallant officers and men of the People's Army, working intellectuals and all the Korean people who are working with full devotion for socialist construction and the final victory of the revolution.

I also extend my New Year greetings to the south Korean revolutionaries, and patriotic democrats, youth and students and people of all strata who are waging a persistent struggle for democratic freedom and national reunification in the teeth of the fascist repression by the US imperialists and their lackeys.

I offer my warm congratulations and greetings to our 600,000 nationals in Japan and all other overseas compatriots who are ringing in the New Year with an ardent love of their homeland and valiant fighting spirit, looking up to their socialist homeland as a beacon of hope in faraway foreign lands.

Greeting the first morning of the New Year with the high pride and honour of victors today, we look back with joy on the past year replete with arduous struggles and significant events.

The year 1976 was a year of historic victory which witnessed the complete fulfilment of the Six-Year Plan as a whole, a grand programme of socialist construction put forward at the Fifth Congress of the Party.

Last year our people, holding high the red flag of the three revolutions, struggled vigorously and brought about a new upsurge in the revolution and construction and thereby won the great victory of completely carrying out the assignments of the Six-Year Plan in all domains of the national economy.

As a result of the successful fulfilment of the Six-Year Plan, a grand programme of socialist construction, the economic power of our country has grown further, our revolutionary base become more solid and our people scaled one more eminence on their way to socialism and communism.

Last year our heroic working class vigorously strove with unbounded fidelity to the Party and reached with flying colours the goal of steel production, one of the most difficult targets of the Six-Year Plan. The builders of metallurgical bases and steel makers completed the rolling plant of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, successfully carried out the expansion projects of the Kangson Steel Complex and other major metallurgical works and thus created a capacity of 4 million tons of steel production, hoisting the banner of victory on the height of steel.

The goal of cement was also attained with success. Thanks to the energetic struggle of the builders of building-materials bases, it was made possible to put into commission the modernly-equipped Sunchon Cement Factory with a production capacity of 3 million tons and the production capacities of the Chonnae-ri and many other cement factories were augmented considerably. As a result, our country's cement production capacity surpassed 8 million tons, and the goal of cement production, which had been the last target of the Six-Year Plan, was won in the end.

The production foundations of the power, chemical and engineering industries were further cemented, and the production targets of the Six-Year Plan overfulfilled by a big margin in all domains of the national economy.

In particular, much was done in capital construction last year. Displaying mass heroism and the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, the building workers boundlessly loyal to the Party not only successfully ensured the construction of metallurgical giants and building-materials bases but also creditably carried out many difficult construction projects. The courageous builders successfully carried out the major construction projects including the Chongchon-gang Steam-Power Plant, the Taedong-gang Power Station, the No. 2 Sodusu Power Station, the Youth Chemical Combine and many machine-building plants, and built modern cities in the Anju and south Chongjin areas in a brief space of time. Thanks to the large-scale capital construction, the inner structure of industry was further perfected, the foundations of the independent national economy consolidated all the more, and towns and villages became more beautiful.

Last year we achieved a signal victory in agriculture. Under the influence of the cold front, the weather conditions were very unfavourable. But our hard-working farmers and the helpers to the countryside overcame all the obstacles and difficulties to reap the richest harvest ever known in our history, thereby producing more than 8 million tons of grain. This success in agricultural production is a striking illustration of the correctness of our Party's agricultural policy and the vitality of the Juche-based method of farming. Today when crop failure is a world-wide occurrence due to the effect of the cold front, agricultural production is making great strides and rich crops are brought in every year in our country. This gives us high pride and honour.

Great success was recorded last year in carrying out the five-point policy of nature remaking, too. The entire people rose and energetically carried on the grand nature-remaking projects, upholding the decision of the 12th Plenary Meeting of the Fifth Central Committee of the Party, with the result that in only two short months the area of irrigated non-paddyfields was markedly expanded, many terraced fields came into being and it became possible to better protect the farmlands from flood damage.

I extend warm thanks to our workers, farmers, working intellectuals and all other people who, through a heroic struggle last year, fulfilled the Six-Year Plan mapped out at the Fifth Congress of the Party and made big achievements on all fronts of socialist construction.

The situation of our country was very tense last year, and our people carried on the revolutionary struggle and construction work under difficult and complex circumstances.

Driven into a serious political and economic crisis by the vigorous revolutionary struggle of the peoples of the world, the US imperialists intensified aggressive machinations against our country more than ever before in an attempt to find a way out in a war. The Ford Administration of the United States engineered the "Panmunjom incident" deliberately on August 18 last year and, with this as an excuse, frantically kicked up a war clamour against the northern half of the Republic. The Ford Administration ordered all the armed forces of aggression in south Korea to get ready for action and reinforced modern war equipment and armed forces in a big way in south Korea, threatening us with what they called a "retaliatory step".

The vicious war provocation manoeuvres of the Ford Administration created a critical situation which might at once touch off a war in our country, gravely endangering peace in Asia and the world. At the crucial hour—war or peace—the peace-loving people of the world expressed deep concern for the situation in our country and watched closely how our people would get over the reckless aggressive scheme of US imperialism.

Our Party and people tried and tested in the long, arduous revolutionary struggle were not the least daunted by the threat and blackmail of the enemy, but answered it by taking necessary steps. The courageous officers and men of our People's Army, members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards

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and the Red Young Guards and the entire people, rallied close around the Party in one ideology and purpose, valiantly rose in a struggle to beat back the aggressive act of the enemy and augmented the defence capacity of the country and, at the same time, vigorously pushed ahead with socialist construction, holding a rifle in one hand and a hammer or a sickle in the other. Thus we successfully thwarted the reckless provocation of the enemy, firmly guarded the security of the country and the gains of the revolution, and achieved excellent results in socialist construction.

Through the "Panmunjom incident" we demonstrated to the whole world the invincible might and revolutionary stamina of our people rallied firmly around the Party, and clearly proved once more the correctness of the consistent peace-loving policy of our Party and the Government of the Republic.

The unity and cohesion of the Party and the masses was further strengthened and the people were tempered politically and ideologically through the arduous revolutionary struggle last year. Today our people are filled with a firm conviction that they can crush any enemy when they fight against him, united firmly around the Party, and with a fiery determination to fight with all devotion for the reunification of the country and the final victory of the revolution. The steel-like unity and cohesion of the Party and the masses and the high revolutionary spirit of the people are a sure guarantee of all our victories.

I extend warm congratulations and thanks to the gallant officers and men of our People's Army and People's Security Forces, members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Red Young Guards and the entire people who, displaying boundless fidelity to the Party and the revolution and matchless patriotic devotion, decisively checked the vicious aggressive attempt of the enemy and firmly defended the security of the country and the gains of the revolution last year.

Comrades,

The Party Central Committee defined the New Year 1977 as a year of readjustment for easing the strains created in certain economic branches in the course of carrying out the Six-Year Plan and for making preparations for embarking on a new long-term plan.

Temporary strains have been created in some economic branches in recent years in the course of rushing the high peaks of the Six-Year Plan. In our economy today, transportation fails to keep pace with fast-growing production and the mining industries do not keep decisively ahead of the processing industries. This prevents faster growth of production in certain processing industries which otherwise would be capable of it, and hinders capital construction to a considerable extent.

It is an important requirement of the economic law of socialism to maintain a correct balance between all domains of the national economy while advancing production and construction steadily at a high rate.

This year we should make thoroughgoing preparations to attain the high peaks of a new long-term plan in all domains of the national economy while launching great efforts to ease the strain on transportation and to keep the mining industries well ahead of the processing industries. This is the principal task we should carry out in the year of readjustment.

The priority front this year is the front of transportation.

To reinforce the front of transportation is an important guarantee for consolidating the heights already occupied and successfully taking new ones. Only when raw materials, fuel and other supplies are transported in time by easing the strain on transportation and bringing about a great innovation in transportation work, is it possible to operate the existing factories at full capacity, build more new factories and satisfactorily guarantee the development of the national economy as a whole.

We should make this year a year for reinforcing the transportation front.

On the transportation front, both land and sea transportation should be developed with main emphasis on the railways. In order to increase the railway transportation capacity the electrification of the railways should be promoted without letup and, at the same time, the production of electric and diesel locomotives and 60-ton waggons should be decisively boosted and tank cars and various other special waggons produced in large numbers. Besides, large numbers of trucks including 10-ton and 25-ton trucks should be produced and many large cargo ships of 10,000-ton burden and above built to substantially increase the capacities of motor and shipping transportation. Along with this, loading and unloading operations should be actively mechanized, the organization of transportation improved and strict revolutionary discipline and order established in the domain of transportation to bring about a radical change in transportation work.

Further, efforts should be concentrated on the mining industries.

It is a consistent policy of our Party to keep the mining industries decidedly ahead of the processing industries, and this is a fundamental condition for normalization of production at industrial establishments. In particular, demands for various minerals and coal have rapidly grown in recent years with great expansion of the production capacities of the metallurgical and other processing industries and construction of many steam-power plants. Whether the industrial establishments which have already been built will prove their real worth or not, depends upon the supply of enough raw materials and fuel by the mining industries.

The coal mines should decisively increase coal output by giving precedence to removal of overburden and basic drift work and effecting technical innovations, and thus fully meet the demand for coal at the steam-power plants and other industrial establishments and in different domains.

Solid raw material bases for the metallurgical works should be created through large-scale development and expansion of mines. Expansion projects of large and promising mines such as the Musan Mine, the Tokhyon Mine, the Unryul Mine and the Komdok Mine should be hastened, and innovations brought about in ore production.

A major goal of struggle in mining should be to create a reserve of raw materials enough to last the metallurgical industry for more than two months.

Especially, great efforts should be made to increase the output of nonferrous ores. While expanding the existing nonferrous ore mines, we should work energetically to develop new ones on a large scale and to boost the smelting capacities. We should augment the production capacities of the smelteries by improving their equipment and put the Tanchon Smeltery into operation this year by hastening its construction.

In the mining industry projects for modernization of the production of magnesia clinker should be vigorously pushed forward and more high-quality magnesia clinker turned out.

One of the most urgent problems in giving a great impetus to socialist economic construction is to produce and supply sufficient electric power.

Electricity is one of the main energies for modern industries, and it holds a very big share in the composition of energies in our country. With the fast progress of production and construction, the demand of the national economy for electric power is growing sharply, but its production at the hydroelectric power stations is greatly handicapped by the influence of the cold front. Under such conditions it is of great importance to successfully solve the problem of electric power.

The workers and technicians in the power industry should work all the generators to full capacity by taking good care of the equipment and checking and repairing them in time as required by the technical regulations, and thus markedly increase the production of electric power. In order to satisfy the ever-growing demand for electric power, it is essential to make the fullest possible use of the existing generating capacities and, at the same time, continue to step up the projects for creating new capacities. The Wiwon Power Station, the No. 2 Huichon Power Station, the Taedong-gang Power Station, the No. 3 Sodusu Power Station and the Chongchon-gang Steam-Power Plant now under way should be put into commission at early dates by concentrating efforts on their construction.

The main task facing light industry this year is to augment the production of consumer goods and raise their quality to a higher level. The workers and technicians in this domain should effect a new turn in the production of consumer goods by tapping and utilizing all the reserves and potentials to the full. The cornstarch and other food-processing factories, in particular, should be well operated and the food industry further developed to supply the people with tasty and nutritious foodstuffs in greater quantities.

The agricultural front will remain one of the major fronts this year under the conditions in which the influence of the cold front persists and the whole world is undergoing a food crisis.

While consolidating the successes already registered in agricultural production, we should wage a titanic struggle to hit the 10 million-ton target of grain production. In agriculture, thoroughgoing measures should be taken against the influence of the cold front and farming be done on a scientific and technical basis as required by the Juche-based farming method, so that another big leap forward will be made in grain production this year. As last year, the whole Party, the whole army and the whole people should turn out this year and give great material, technical and labour aid to the agricultural front.

The basic way of radically boosting grain production in future lies in the thorough implementation of the five-point policy of nature remaking put forward by the Party at the 12th Plenary Meeting of its Fifth Central Committee. This year we should step up irrigation works on non-paddyfields, build terraced fields in a big way and energetically carry out land rezoning, land amelioration and river improvement in an all-mass movement and thus lay the solid foundation for reaching the 10 million-ton goal of grain production in the near future.

Fast development of fisheries is an important task for raising the people's living standard higher.

Now the marine conditions of our country are undergoing a change very favourable to the development of fisheries. We should develop fisheries to a new height by dedicating great efforts to the fishing front this year. In this domain, a scientific fishing system should be established, active fishing operations launched to catch more fish, and fish processing improved, so that the demand of the working people for fish is fully met.

The task is to consolidate the fishing bases and further modernize the material and technical means of fisheries in order to radically increase fish production. Especially, a wide variety of modern fishing implements should be produced in large quantities and many fishing boats built. The shipyards should be expanded and their capacities increased to build a large number of over 10,000-ton factory ships and 3,750-ton stern-netting trawlers and turn out many small and medium fishing boats including those of 450-ton capacity.

The guidance of the economy and the management of enterprises should be improved and the struggle for increased production and economy be further intensified. In all domains and at all units of the national economy, political work and the work of economic organization should be conducted meticulously as required by the Taean work system and the economy managed with utmost care to save fuel, raw and other materials to the maximum, lower the consumption of materials per product and turn out more with the equipment, materials and labour force on hand to cut the production costs by over two per cent lower than planned. It is of particular importance to intensify the struggle for economizing in electricity. Active measures should be taken in all fields to thoroughly eliminate the waste of electricity and cut the power consumption per product, and an all-mass movement be vigorously waged for economy of electricity.

We should continue to energetically carry on the three revolutions for successful fulfilment of the revolutionary tasks confronting us this year. Basing ourselves on the achievements already made in the three revolutions, we should further deepen and develop the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions, and actively enlist the inexhaustible energy and creative ingenuity of the masses to bring about a new upswing in all domains of revolution and construction.

The situation of our country remains strained due to the moves of the US imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique to ignite a new war. Inasmuch as the enemy persists in his aggressive manoeuvres, the entire people should always keep themselves on the alert without slackening the revolutionary vigilance in the least. The officers and men of the People's Army and the People's Security Forces should further increase the combat preparedness and fighting capacity of their units through untiring combat and political training and firmly guard the posts of the fatherland.

We have seen out one more year and are seeing in a New Year with the cause of national reunification left unaccomplished. It is the greatest and cherished national desire of the entire Korean people to reunify their divided country at the earliest possible date, and this poses itself as an ever more burning demand as years go by and time flows.

Last year, the people and patriotic democrats in south Korea fought unyieldingly for social democracy in spite of the continued fascist repression by the puppet ruling clique, and our 600,000 nationals in Japan and other overseas compatriots of ours, too, actively waged the struggle for exposing and denouncing the crimes of the south Korean puppet clique against the nation and expediting the independent, peaceful reunification of the homeland.

In the New Year the entire people of north and south Korea and all the Koreans abroad should pool their strength and closely unite on the principle of great national unity, and wage with added vigour the struggle for independent, peaceful reunification of the country, the common cause of the nation.

For the accomplishment of the historic cause of national reunification it is very important to strengthen unity and solidarity with the revolutionary people of the world. Last year, thanks to the correct foreign policy and brisk external activities of our Party and the Government of our Republic, our solidarity with the peoples of the third world was further strengthened, and a powerful solidarity movement supporting our people's cause of national reunification was staged in all parts of the world. The Fifth Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries held in Colombo in last August expressed firm solidarity for our people's cause of national reunification and adopted a resolution in full accord with our Party's policy for reunification. And solidarity committees for supporting the reunification of Korea were formed in a large number of countries on all continents including the third world states and Japan, France, Belgium and the United States, and loud voices manifesting solidarity with the struggle of the south Korean people against fascism and for democracy came from all parts of the world. We are very glad to note that the solidarity movement supporting and encouraging us in our cause of national reunification is gaining strength every day among the progressive people of the world.

Seeing in the New Year, I, on behalf of the entire Korean people, extend warm congratulations and greetings to the progressive people and friends the world over who offer strong support and encouragement to our revolutionary cause.

This year, too, we will strive hard to strengthen unity and solidarity with the peoples of socialist and third world countries and other progressive people of the world. We should thus call forth louder voices of international solidarity to thwart and frustrate the "two Koreas" plot of the splittists within and without and to support the struggle of the south Korean people against fascism and for democracy, and compel the United States to comply with our just proposal to sign a peace agreement, so that a more favourable phase will be opened up for independent, peaceful reunification of our country.

The revolutionary tasks facing us this year are very honourable and worthy fighting tasks. As long as we have the wise leadership of our Party and our people are firmly armed with the Juche idea, we are bound to win a brilliant victory in this year's revolutionary struggle too.

Let us all unite closely around the Central Committee of the Party under the banner of Marxism-Leninism, the revolutionary banner of the Juche idea, and fight on more vigorously for a greater victory in socialist construction and for the hastening of the independent, peaceful reunification of the country.

Students and Children in Pyongyang Have Joyous New Year Gathering, Honoured by Presence of the Great Leader Marshal KIM IL SUNG

Joyous New Year gathering of students and children in Pyongyang is honoured by the presence of the great leader

On the evening of December 31 when the year 1976 was drawing to a close, a joyous New Year gathering of students and children in Pyongyang took place in the Pyongyang Gymnasium.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, the great leader of our Party and our people, attended the New Year's eve party.

Put up on the facade of the gymnasium was a large picture of Mangyongdae, the cradle of revolution, where the great sun of our nation rose, and it was radiant with the words "May the great leader enjoy a long life in good health". Set up at the main entrance to the gymnasium were beautiful floral arches, flanked on either side by a celebration tower depicting a rich harvest of crops, with three banners symbolic of the three revolutions on it, a celebration tower with five buntings telling of the five-point policy of nature-remaking. And ever-green pine trees were placed there.

Put in place of honour in the spacious entrance was a painting showing the dignified figure of the great leader overlooking the scenery of our land on the summit of Mt. Paekdu-san.

Seen in the festively-attired entrance were a picture of snow-covered scene of Mangyongdae, the spiritual birthplace of our people, and a picture of snow-capped landscape of Mt. Paekdu-san, the holy mountain of revolution.

Students and children, standing on both sides of the staircases of the entrance with bundles of flowers in their hands, were waiting for the happy moment of their New Year gathering being graced by the presence of the great leader Marshal Kim Il Sung.

Presently, the great leader of our Party and our people Comrade Kim Il Sung arrived at the gymnasium.

At the moment, the cheers "Long live the great leader Marshal Kim Il Sung!" burst forth, shaking the spacious gymnasium. Sending up cheers of hurrah at the pitch of their voices, the school children warmly welcomed the respected and beloved leader and extended the greatest glory and thanks to him, their hearts swelling with unbounded respect and reverence for the great leader Marshal Kim Il Sung who regards them as the most precious treasures of the country and shows profound affection and solicitude for them to bring them up to be dependable reserve forces of the revolution.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung was met at the main entrance of the gymnasium by Comrade Yang Hyong Sop and responsible functionaries of the CC of the League of Socialist Working Youth and Pyongyang municipal Party and power bodies.

Lovely Juvenile Corps members reverentially offered New Year greetings to the father Marshal, representing the unanimous allegiance of all our children and people who sincerely wish the respected and beloved leader good health and a long life.

Amiid the unending cheers of "manse" (hurrah) members of the Juvenile Corps rushed forth, tied a red neckerchief around the neck of the great leader Marshal Kim Il Sung and presented him with a bouquet of fragrant flowers.

The respected and beloved leader warmly grasped the hands of the enthusiastically welcoming children and students and congratulated them who were greeting the hope-filled New Year.

Present at the New Year celebrations together with children and students in the city were Members of the Political Committee of the Party Central Committee and other cadres. The visiting sportsmen's delegation of Koreans in Japan were also present.

Also on hand were diplomatic envoys and foreign guests in Pyongyang.

When the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung appeared in the box amid the playing of the welcome music, all children and students and spectators warmly welcomed him sending up stormy cheers of "manse!" and giving thunderous applause.

The inside of the gymnasium was beautifully bedecked with various decorations and slogans "We sincerely wish respected and beloved father Marshal Kim Il Sung good health and a long life!" "Thank you respected and beloved father Marshal Kim Il Sung!" and "We extend New Year greetings to respected and beloved father Marshal Kim Il Sung!"

The gymnasium was pervaded with our people's unbounded respect, infinite reverence and boundless gratitude for the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung who originated the immortal great Juche idea and successfully embodied it in the revolution and construction and thus founded a powerful socialist state of independence, self-support and self-defence in this land, brought up our people into a dignified and mighty people and provided them with a happy life. The gymnasium was filled with the high sense of pride and honour of the victors who were retrospecting with deep emotion the year 1976 when they dashed forward vigorously along the road of victory and glory under the wise leadership of the respected and beloved leader.

From the outset of 1976 the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung took epochal measures to dynamically step up the revolution and construction and indicated in detail the ways and means for their implementation. Busy as he was, he gave on-the-spot guidance in every nook and corner of the country to inspire the working people and lead them to victory.

The respected and beloved leader intelligently led our agricultural working people to the struggle to cushion effects of the severe cold front by carrying through the great rural theses and fully applying the Juche-based farming method. Thus he enabled them to gather the richest crop ever known in this land.

When the hall was pervaded with the feeling of boundless respect and gratitude for the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, lovely children reverentially presented a floral basket representing the deep gratitude and loyalty of the entire students and children to the respected and beloved leader who created the great Juche-oriented educational idea and took a step to adopt the law on the nursing and upbringing of children in the wake of the full introduction of universal 11-year compulsory education system, a most advanced system in the world. Then they reverently bowed down their heads expressing their best wishes that Marshal Kim Il Sung, the great leader of our Party and our people, will enjoy longevity for the bright future of Korea, for the reunification of the homeland and for the victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche.

Cheers of "manse" and thunderous applause again arose throughout the hall.

Extending greetings to lovely school children who were joyously greeting the hope-filled New Year, 1977, the great leader saw a performance of more than 5,000 students and children.

The curtain rose with the paean reflecting the intense loyalty of the entire students and children to the great leader—"We extend New Year greetings to respected and beloved father Marshal Kim Il Sung".

The colourful programme included "Song of Korea", an immortal classical famous song, group dance vividly depicting the lives of Children's Corps members who were brought up to become young revolutionists to succeed the revolution in the embrace of the great leader in the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, juvenile dance dealing with old stories related by the great leader in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle—"Witty butterflies defeat a cock", callisthenics "Down-with-Imperialism Union sheds light on the whole world", song and dance "Really good is our law on the nursing and upbringing of children", juvenile dramatic sketch "A gathering to celebrate the abundant harvest of over 8 million ton grain is broadcast on a nationwide link-up" and others.

The performance impressively showed the happy life of our children, successor to the glorious revolutionary traditions established by the great leader, who are being brought up to become dependable builders of socialism under the warm care of the beloved leader and the successes our people have achieved in socialist construction holding aloft the banner of three revolutions.

The performance ended with the song and dance "We sincerely wish you father Marshal good health and a long life".

The school children's performance given in celebration of the New Year left a deep impression on the audience for its rich ideological content and high artistic value.

When the performance was over, there arose stormy cheers of "Long live the great leader Marshal Kim Il Sung!"

The great leader raised his hand warmly responding to the enthusiastic cheers of the students and children and congratulated them on their successful performance.

The school children who had the New Year gathering and all the attendants made a firm determination to live up with loyalty to the deep trust and solicitude of the great leader by studying harder and bringing about a new revolutionary upsurge in carrying out the three revolutions, cherishing in their hearts the boundless happiness and glory of the day.

THE YEAR 1977 TO BE ADORNED WITH NEW STRUGGLE AND GLORY

The Great Leader's Longevity— People's Happiness

The morning of a new, historic year of glory has just dawned calmly. This year we will celebrate the 65th birthday of the fatherly, great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung as the greatest national auspicious day, with a high esteem for him.

With great emotion we greet the first morning of the year 1977 to be adorned with victorious events—the year that will write a glorious page with golden letters in the proud history of our people who strive to realize the revolutionary cause of Juche started by the great leader, with their hearts burning with loyalty to him.

Magnificent Pyongyang looms conspicuously in the sky-line, bathed in the bright morning sunshine of the New Year.

An endless stream of people flows to the Mansudae Hill. Soon the hill is covered with fragrant floral baskets and flower bunches prepared with utmost care during winter. Clearly moved with a deep feeling of profound respect for the respected and beloved leader of our Party and our people Comrade Kim Il Sung, the crowds pause before his statue. Involuntarily straightening their clothes, they extend the New Year greetings with best wishes.

"I can hardly begin my work before bowing down paying tribute to our respected leader, the sun of the nation, and expressing the best wishes that he will enjoy good health and a long life on this memorable New Year's morning."

This is what a veteran Merited Miner said, who was the first to stand before the great leader's statue, together with his family. His face beams with the joy of having overfulfilled his last year's assignments.

A woman bumper harvest-raiser and work-team leader of a cooperative farm who has come from the distant outskirts of Pyongyang and a young school teacher of new generation and his pupils reverentially bow their heads wishing longevity to the great leader.

The warm heart and ardent desire cherished by our people are also shared by our compatriots in the south, a half of the territory of our homeland, where fascism is rampant, and by 600,000 Korean nationals in Japan across the sea and other overseas compatriots.

"May the fatherly leader enjoy good health and a long life!"—this wish of our people is not a particular feeling expressed only on this New Year's morning.

This intense wish has always been enshrined in the hearts of our people even under the severest adversity—from the day when they began to carve out the rough path of the time and revolution following the banner of Juche under the wise leadership of the great leader to this date.

This very wish is a noble feeling which stemmed from the depth of the hearts of our people who find themselves worth living only under the guidance of the great leader.

Sure enough, it will be impossible to relate his great benevolence and paternal love, even in many generations to come. No wonder, people sing to the praise of his benefaction:

Only under the guidance of the beloved leader
Korea shines bright
Only under the guidance of the beloved leader
We are happy
With a high esteem for Marshal Kim Il Sung
We'll always remain loyal to you through successive generations.

We pause to think of what our country was like in the past. In the grim days of Japanese imperialist colonial rule our people were subjected to all sorts of maltreatment and humiliation.

In those troublous days the only wish of our people was to live a free life on their own territory. No wonder then that watching the moon they sang a song expressing their life-long wish to live with their parents in a cosy straw-roofed house.

As all our people experienced sufferings and sorrows of stateless people to the depth of their hearts, they never mention their honour and happiness of today without thinking of the feats of the fatherly leader. So, they always cherish his lofty benefaction in their hearts and loudly sing to the praise of this.

"Indeed, ours is a wonderful society good to live in. Formerly completely barred from the right to study, you were compelled to work for many years in a narrow pit from the age of 8. But now you have become a manager of a big factory. Free from any worries about housing, food and clothing you get even scholarship from the state to give your children higher education free of charge. We are now provided with a magnificent house like this. How can we justify the grace of the fatherly leader...?"

This is what an elderly man Choe said when his family members lined up before the fatherly leader's portrait after moving into a new apartment in Rakwon Street last year.

Of course, this warm feeling does not confine to this home alone.

True, in the fatherly leader's bosom warm with love our people have come to transform their cherished but remote dream into a reality.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung has said:

"The great victories and successes we achieved in the revolutionary struggle and the work of construction... are due to the correct lines and policies of the Workers' Party of Korea and its wise leadership."

All miraculous achievements made in this land and grand flower garden of Juche built in Korea—these are precisely attributable to the well-advised leadership of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the genius of revolution, the sun of the nation and legendary hero, who stepped out onto the road of revolution in his early years and traversed the path of struggle for half a century, going through the violent storms.

Thanks to the wise guidance of the great leader our country which once lost their lustre on the world map has become the native land of Juche radiating hope to every corner of the globe and has been turned into a powerful socialist industrial country, independent, self-supporting and self-defensive. Our people give a lustre to their noble political integrity provided by him and live and work with pride and self-confidence as being the masters of the country.

Last year war clouds became threatening in this land, caused by the US imperialist-engineered Panmunjom incident. But only because of the wise leadership of the great leader our people could actively cope with the tense situation, overcoming all difficulties, once again demonstrate the dignity of Juche Korea to the whole world and bring about great leaps and innovations, thus winning signal victories on all fronts of huge socialist construction.

Proud successes achieved in all branches of the national economy including steel and cement industries, abundant bumper harvest ever known in Korea which meant attaining the goal of over 8 million tons of grain, adoption of the law on nursing and upbringing of children last year in the wake of full introduction of compulsory universal 11-year education and production of an army of one million intellectuals the year before last—all these proud victories and successes cannot be even thought of without the inspiring leadership of the great leader and his paternal care shown to our people.

The fatherly leader surrounds all the aspects of the country and people's lives and even the destiny of a family and individual with warm love. Sure enough, the great leader's longevity means our people's happiness and our country's glory.

So, our people's wish for the great leader's longevity is as hot as fire and their will to remain loyal to him forever is as invulnerable as rock.

Our people regard it as their greatest duty and highest honour to hold him in high esteem eternally and please him. This year, too, in hearty response to the New Year Address delivered by the beloved leader they are filled with a firm resolve to put fresh spurs to the Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement and create new miracles on all fronts of socialist construction, thus giving him greater pleasure.

Our people who are always ready to devote everything for the sake of the great leader and the glorious Party will successfully carry out the sacred task of making the Juche idea sweep the whole of society and surely achieve national reunification and the nationwide victory of the Korean revolution.

Kim Yun Sik

Boundlessly happy are our children who greet the New Year in the warm heart of respected and beloved father Marshal Kim Il Sung

Happy mood reigns over the Ponghwa Co-operative Farm in Paechon county where the year's splendid harvests are divided among its members

Loyal Determination

The hopeful New Year 1977 which will shine with fresh strivings and glories has dawned. On this morning all our working people heard the New Year Address of the great leader over the radio or TV sets, bearing deep in mind the tasks advanced by him, and now feel their hearts swell with profound emotions, thrown into excitement.

In the past year our people under the wise guidance of the fatherly leader completely fulfilled the grand Six-Year Plan as a whole, a programme put forward at the Fifth Party Congress. The result is that the economic might of our country has increased and our revolutionary base become more solid.

The goals of steel and cement production were successfully attained and the production foundations of the power, chemical and engineering industries further consolidated. Thus our industries have developed into mightier Juche-oriented ones. As for agriculture, we produced more than eight million tons of grain, an all-time high ever since the birth of Korea.

On the morning of the New Year's Day our working people proudly look back on these great achievements. They are filled with a fiery resolve to creditably carry out the tasks set forth by the fatherly leader in his New Year Address, engraving these tasks on their minds.

In his New Year Address for 1977, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung has taught:

"This year we should make thoroughgoing preparations to attain the high peaks of a new long-term plan in all domains of the national economy while launching great efforts to ease the strain on transportation and to keep the mining industries well ahead of the processing industries. This is the principal task we should carry out in the year of readjustment."

Our working people who have always remained infinitely faithful to the fatherly leader with the national pride and honour of living and working under his guidance are all aglow with intense loyalty out of a sheer desire to make this glorious year more brilliant. Notably, the transport workers are better aware of their duty and honour in this year of readjustment than anyone else. Their determination is rarely adamant. They are unanimous in their resolve to bring about great innovation in railway electrification and overfulfil their fighting tasks assigned to them this year and inform the great leader of their success as a token of their allegiance.

The miners at Musan, Tokhyon, Unryul and Komdok firmly made up their minds to chalk up a signal result in the production of minerals by beating with flying colours the combat targets set before them in the new year.

Agriculture remains one of the main fronts this year.

Particular mention should be made here of the fact that our agricultural working people are inflamed with a loyal determination to make a big progress in carrying through the five-point nature-remaking policy presented by the great leader, without resting on their laurels with regard to last year's successes, and lay a solid basis for capturing the height of 10 million tons of grain.

In our country the Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement will go on with unabated intensity as the working people are afire with loyalty on all fronts of huge socialist construction. This year, too, our country will make a giant stride forward and register marvellous achievements, thereby once again demonstrating to the whole world the might of Juche Korea.

Li In Su

On the day of New Year. Great hope and joy are expressed on the faces of the working people in the benevolent embrace of the great leader

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